

## down to earth Alice Burlingame

# Enjoying visit to Denver gardens

One of the dividends of being a garden columnist is the pleasure of visiting local gardens as I travel the country.

Recently I attended the National Horticultural Therapy Conference in Denver, Colo. This conference stemmed from the beginning of horticultural therapy at Pontiac State Hospital (Clinton Valley Center). Attendees were there from Australia, England and all over the United States.

The site of the conference was the Denver Botanic Gardens which excel in beauty even when compared with similar places in the United States.

The current director is Merl Moore who had his horticultural training at Michigan State University. It is gratifying to see this young director receive such civic backing for the newest ideas in horticultural planning.

Within the Botanic Gardens there are more than 20 outdoor garden areas, a tropical conservatory, an orchid pavilion and a living museum of plant life. Here, each season of the year would provide bonuses for the garden lover.

A part of the bonus for going to the Botanic Gardens was a trip to Rocky Mountain National Park. We were lucky to arrive in the spring wildflower cycle. They spread along the road and up the rise of the mountains like an ornamental rug. Mountain wildflowers generally don't have long stems.

I would advise a person making the Rocky Mountain trip to go by bus due to the steep mountains. The driver of a private car could be so captivated by the sights the safety of all couldn't be guaranteed.

The mountain roads are well maintained. A quick flight to Denver could provide a change of pace and a visual feast for a person who appreciates top-flight beauty.

At this calendar date you have had enough time enjoying your garden, both in the front and rear, to begin to plan improvements for 1986.

There is a new publication out, "Landscaping for Privacy," Sunset Books, Lane Publishing Co., Menlo Park, Calif., 94 pages, \$5.95. This book has a multitude of color plates which give the reader quick inspiration for new and established gardens.

This book is filled with practical ideas to aid a gardener in building areas of privacy in the garden. Hedges, fences and arbors encourage the restless gardener to improve the home garden. It is never difficult to get back to one's own garden as it seems to unfold its arms in welcome and prod the home gardener into making improvements.

This is the time to buy chrysanthemum for an accent in a dead spot in your garden. Remember to only buy outdoor mums which will survive the winter in the garden. Next spring plants can be divided so that each tiny branch will provide you with a large mound of flowers.

You may be buying some tulip bulbs before long. Remember the style is not to string them out like soldiers, but have a color impact by grouping perhaps nine or 12 bulbs in a circle about five inches apart.

P.S. That Sunset book "Landscaping for Privacy" is the best one the company has published.

## To give dance classes

Detroit Dance Collective will conduct eight days of dance classes, 6-9 p.m. Aug. 19-22 and Aug. 25-29 at Oakland Community College, Washington and Lincoln, Royal Oak.

Classes in modern, ballet, jazz

and introduction to dance will be taught by professionals Barbara Selinger, Paula Kramer and Sandy Black.

For information, call 548-0664.

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The Royal Winnipeg Ballet, which will perform at Music Hall Center April 16-20, can be counted upon to perform the works of some of the great choreographers, such as George Balanchine, along with exciting newcomers. The New York Daily News called the company "quite simply, one of the finest ensembles of young dancers in the world today." It is the one company which will be performing ballet in the classical style.

# Center's dance card is filled

Music Hall Center's 1985-86 Dance Season includes many world-renowned companies.

Kicking the season off is the Hubbard Street Dance Company, Oct. 23-27. This Chicago based company provides Broadway-jazz style of dance with one of Detroit's own, Kitty Skillman.

In November the "father" of post modern/avant garde dance Merce Cunningham and his company stop in Detroit for a limited engagement, Nov. 20-24.

Feb. 5-9 spotlights the return of the Detroit City Dance Company under the direction of founder/choreographer, Carole Morrisseau.

The season continues Feb. 28 to March 2, when the award winning Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater comes to Music Hall.

Highlighting early spring will be the Harbinger Dance Company, on the Music Hall stage March 19-23.

Under the artistic direction of Lisa Nowak, it was selected by the National Endowment for the Arts as the only Michigan company to participate in the Dance Touring Program in the 1977-78 and 1981-82 seasons.

Music Hall Center will present the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, April 16-20.

The company is under the artistic direction of Arnold Spohr.

Closing out the 1985-86 season will be a split week, featuring two modern companies. On May 7 and 8 Elia Monte Dance Company will perform. Monte, artistic director/choreographer has had her works incorporated into the repertoires of four other companies - Alvin Ailey, San Francisco Ballet, the Gubbenian Ballet of Portugal and The Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company.

moves in May 9 and 10. This company from Salt Lake City has a reputation for a varied repertoire featuring theatrical staging, mixed media and humor.

Season tickets to the 1985-86 Dance Series offer discounts for adults, whether opting for all seven companies or as few as four. Music Hall also offers students, senior citizens and children a special subscription rate. For information, call 953-7622.

## Writers to meet on Oct. 18-19

The 24th annual Writers Conference, sponsored by Detroit Women Writers and Oakland University, will be held Oct. 18-19 at Oakland University.

Keynote speakers will be Carolyn Chute, author of the best-seller "The Beans of Egypt, Maine," Ira Blumenthal, TV script writer, and Charlotte and Mary Esther Nolan, Kentucky story-tellers.

Thirty-two separate workshops plus lab sessions will be available for both experienced and novice writers. These will be headed by authors, agents and editors from all around the country.

For a conference brochure, call Oakland University, Division of Continuing Education, 370-3128.

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